

WE SPOKE TO STEVE ORNDUFF, THE PRESIDENT OF MOLY-COP USA ABOUT THEIR LATEST PRODUCT INNOVATION AND WHAT THE LAUNCH MEANS FOR MOLY-COP AND ITS CUSTOMERS.

MOLY-COP FORGING AHEAD

Moly-Cop have been manufacturing grinding balls from its Kansas City operations since 1921. In January, 2016 the company will add another important chapter to its rich history with the first of it's new generation SAG grinding balls rolling off the production line. Named the "Moly-Cop NG", the new product represents a significant improvement in SAG Ball technology and performance.

Steve, can you tell us about your role and history with Moly-Cop.

I have been responsible for grinding media operations at both of our predecessor companies since the early 1990's, Armco, and GST Steel. In 2002 I was a founder of American Grinding Systems, the predecessor of today's Moly-Cop USA. Currently I am the President of Moly-Cop USA, responsible for all aspects of the day-to-day business operations.

Who is Moly-Cop and what are your key products and services?

Moly-Cop provides grinding media products (grinding balls and rods) and technical assistance to hard rock mining, cement, and industrial mineral companies globally. Our products are used in mineral processing applications primarily for

the commodities of gold, copper and iron ore. From our Kansas City, Missouri facility, we primarily serve customers in the continental United States, Central America, and South America. We provide absolute security of supply from our centrally located plant in Kansas City and inventory depots in Texas, Utah, Nevada, and Arizona in addition to support from our global network of nine facilities strategically located in major mining regions.

Moly-Cop has announced that it will introduce a new grinding ball product to the market. What is the new product and why was it developed?

Over the past decade or so, the working environment for SAG balls has become much more demanding. To increase

productivity, customers have been building new operations with larger diameter SAG mills, and many customers are operating their SAG mills more aggressively. To meet this new performance requirement, a three year R&D project was undertaken by Moly-Cop's global technical network to increase the toughness and abrasion resistance of the Moly-Cop SAG ball. The result of this work is the development of the Moly-Cop NG SAG ball.





What is different about the Moly-Cop NG product and how does it compare with other products on the market?

The product development process focused on the development of specialised manufacturing processes and the micro-alloy combinations of our feed material in order to produce the New Generation SAG ball. The Moly-Cop NG SAG ball is manufactured using an innovative, proprietary manufacturing process that has resulted in a tougher SAG Ball, with higher impact and spalling resistance. We have undertaken considerable investment in our facility to modify our current manufacturing process to accommodate the necessary technology to produce the Moly-Cop NG ball. Customer trials to date have displayed a significantly lower ball consumption range for medium to high impact milling environments, so we are very excited to be able to bring this product to market in 2016.

Can you elaborate on the changes to your operations that were required to manufacture Moly-Cop NG ball?

The production of the Moly-Cop NG SAG ball begins with special processing of the

bar or feed material provided by our steel suppliers, which we use to manufacture the balls. At the Moly-Cop plants, the balls are then hot forged and processed through new state-of-the-art heat-treat lines that produces the properties that generate the superior toughness of the Moly-Cop NG SAG ball. In Kansas City, the investment in this new heat-treatment line is the single largest capital investment since the construction of the new plant in on this current site in 1995.

Can you tell us about how the product has performed and elaborate on your initial results?

Initial results from several full scale field trials indicate that a reduction in SAG ball consumption may range from 10-13% in lower impact mill environments up to 20% in higher impact mill environments, by virtually eliminating breakage and spalling that drive total ball consumption.

When will the new product be available?

We completed the construction work associated with the new manufacturing line in September 2015 and we are now in finalising our commissioning trials. We will begin producing Moly-Cop NG SAG balls for customers from January 2016.



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Steve Ornduff
(President Moly-Cop USA)

